COMING ATTRACTIONS

MAY, 1977 NUMBER 6

SHOWCASE LAUNCHES NEW DOOM PATROL!

The first home of such features as THE FLASH, GREEN LANTERN, THE ATOM, ADAM STRANGE, THE CREEPER, METAL MEN, THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN and a host of others, SHOWCASE returns in its original concept of the comic book proving ground - the area where one previews certain new features and new concepts.

Resuming the original numbering, SHOWCASE #94 revives THE DOOM PATROL. As more astute fans may recall, the original Doom Patrol was killed off in the final issue of their magazine, back in 1973. As it happens, Robotman was "killed" but wasn't destroyed - his brain being encased in an armor-plated radiation-proof housing. His remains are put back in working condition by a mysterious stranger; Robotman then returns to the mansion where the original team lived.

There he finds three people with fantastic super-powers. One, Valentina Vostok, was a Russian astronaut who defected to the U.S. In escaping the Soviet Union, her plane crashed in the vicinity of the Doom Patrol's demise. Valentina became consumed with the negative-energy which empowered one member of the original group.

Joshua Clay has no direct connection to the original group. Believed by the U.S. Army of being a traitor, Clay is a mutant whose power blasts are capable of vaporizing solid steel.

Finally, there is Celsius - the mystery woman of the group. She has the power of extreme hot and cold, and she holds all of the secrets of the original team's chief, Niles Caulder. Among these secrets is the formula for immortality, which, of course, is of great interest to one super-villain named General Immortus.

THE DOOM PATROL combines the mood and the flavor (and many of the plot lines) of the original group while being a new creation in its own right, courtesy of writer Paul Kupperberg. Ed Davis pencils the series, which will hit the newsstands May 31st.

JSA ORIGIN: NOW IT CAN BE TOLD!

Super-teams, like super-heroes, have their origin stories. However, in the case of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, it took thirty-seven years to become public knowledge.

The time is 1940. England learns of Hitler's invasion plans, and she requests assistance from the United States. Whereas President Roosevelt can not officially aid the United Kingdom, he does send three "unofficial

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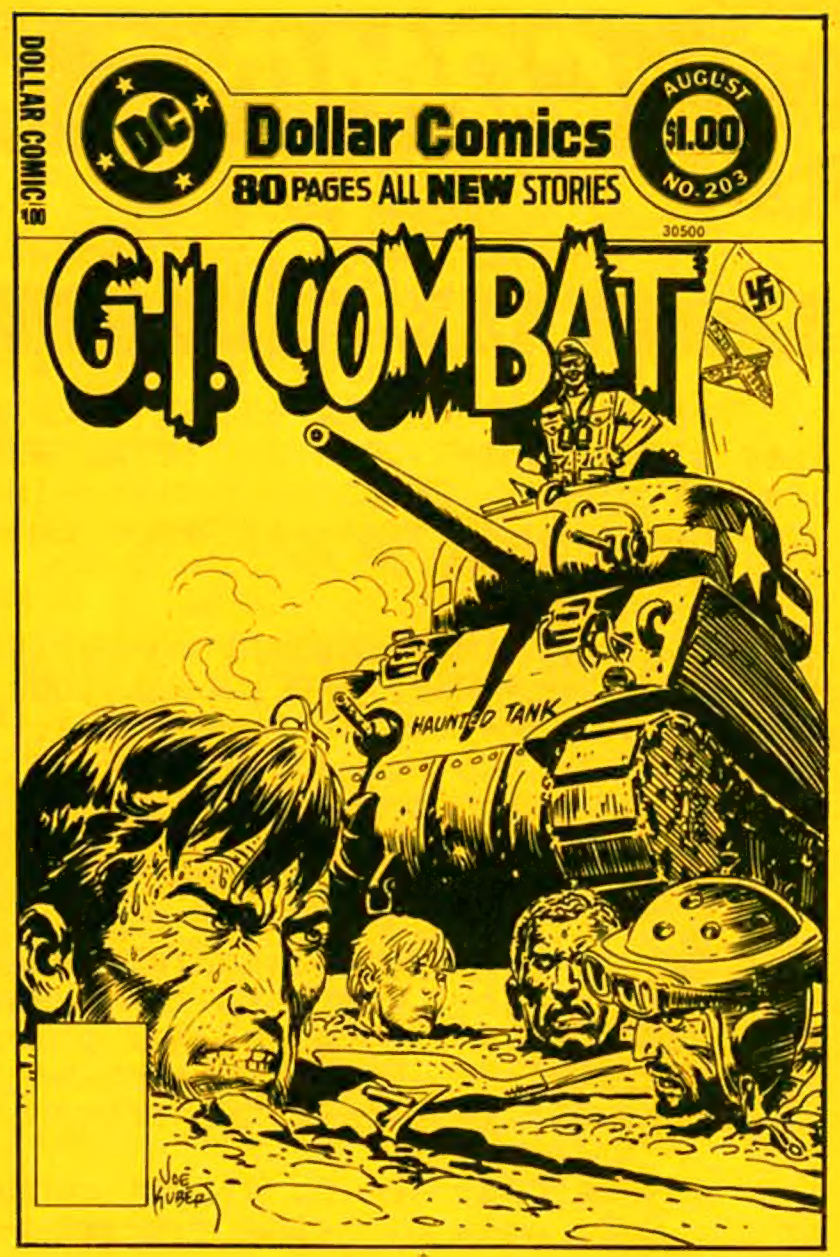

advisors": Batman, The Flash and Green Lantern. Dr. Fate, via his mystic forces, gets wind of what is going on and he flies off to Europe to deal with the Nazi threat. Dr. Fate contacts other super-heroes as well: Hour-man, The Atom, Sandman and Hawkman, who are later joined by The Spectre and Superman.

At the White House reception for the super-heroes at the completion of their task, Hawkman suggests they band together as a permanent unit. This group, THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, is composed of the above-mentioned heroes and, after an interesting story-swapping session (ALL-STAR #3), they band together to fight crime and evil on what is now referred to as Earth II.

Paul Levitz scripted this 34 pager, and JSA artists Joe Staton and Bob Layton provided the artwork, topped by a Neal Adams cover. This story runs in DC SPECIAL #29, on sale May 12th.

NEW WAR SERIES IN MEN OF WAR!

In the days of World War II, black soldiers who made it to the front lines did so doing menial labor -- in those days, units were segregated, and it was the white G.I.s that did the bulk of the fighting and won most of the medals. Enter GRAVEDIGGER -- a young black G.I. assigned to the Graves Registration Unit. After rescuing a group of French farmers from the Nazis and saving the life of his white commanding officer, Gravedigger requests permission to use his well-developed skills in a combat unit. True to the times, this request was denied.

Gravedigger launches an "attack" on the Pentagon to prove he is worthy of being a U.S. Army commando. Of course, army officials do not take too kindly to his assault, or to his being AWOL. But the Secretary of War is duly impressed...and Gravedigger becomes the front-line Unknown Soldier - being the unexpected explosive force needed to turn a battle.

David Michelinie created and wrote Gravedigger; Ed Davis (himself a Vietnam war veteran) provided the pencils. Ed also drew the back-up feature in this book, the return of ENEMY ACE, written by Robert Kanigher.

"This book" is the all-new MEN OF WAR, which will be released seven times yearly, the first issue hitting the newsstands May 10th.

(Note: As of this writing, GRAVEDIGGER is the tentative title for the lead series of MEN OF WAR.)

AQUAMAN RETURNS TO HIS OWN BOOK!

AQUAMAN, in case it slipped your memory, is one of comics' most long-lived super-heroes, being continuously published in one form or another since 1941. The former Sea-King enjoyed his own title between 1962 and 1971; his ADVENTURE COMICS series started in 1974. And ended last month.

THIS month, AQUAMAN swims back into his own title, picking up the numbering where it left off, with #57. The storyline continues from the ADVENTURE run, pitting AQUAMAN against two of his deadliest foes, Black Manta and The Fisherman. This Michelinie-Aparo thriller hits the stands May 17th.

And, next month in ADVENTURE COMICS, SUPERBOY returns to the lead spot in all-new thrillers. AQUALAD will hold down the back-up feature, at least for the first three issues. More about the new ADVENTURE COMICS next month.

Odd Items, Noteworthy News...

FAMOUS SECONDS: The second issue of SHADE introduces Form, a gaseous enemy from the Meta-Zone who is trying to build an alliance with Earthly criminals for world conquest. Steve Ditko and Mike Fleisher provide the plot, art, and script...The second issue of the new CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN series (#82) pops up this month as the team that lives on borrowed time flys to New England in their search for a cure for the dying Prof -- but first, they meet "The Lurker Below," by Conway, Nasser and Wiacek...The second in our new SUPER-TEAM FAMILY cross-over series (#12) brings together HAWKMAN and GREEN LANTERN as they help THE ATOM find his lost-lover, Jean Loring...The second issue of THE RETURN OF THE NEW GODS (#13) continues the battle to keep the anti-life equation from Darkseid as the battle of father vs. son shapes up...The second appearance of the new revitalized ISIS series (#6) comes out this month as the super-heroine's boy friend, Rick Mason adopts a secret identity -- as a super-villain...And, finally, Jack C. Harris' second script on KAMANDI (#52) continues as the last boy on Earth's search for his friend Ben Boxer takes him south of the border in "The Catnip Connection," drawn by Dick Ayers and Alfredo Alcala.

FAMOUS LASTS: SUPERMAN #314 closes the four-part Journalist's Disease series by Pasko, Swan and Adkins, this issue again guest-starring The Flash and Supergirl. Look for a monumentous event in the relationship of Clark Kent and Lois Lane at the end of this story...BATMAN #290 provides the wind-up to the Skull Dugger series, by David V. Reed and Mike Grell...And,

finally, HERCULES UNBOUND #12 is the wind-up to the entire series, as all loose-ends are tied together in this classic by Cary Bates and Walt Simonson.

FAMOUS OTHERS: One of the female Green Lanterns, Katma Tui, lands on Earth and becomes involved with Green Arrow, much to the chagrin of Black Canary. Meanwhile, Green Lantern arrives on OA and is attacked by his fellow Lanterns - and by the Guardians as well - in GREEN LANTERN/GREEN ARROW #96...More super-hero action on tap for WORLD'S FINEST #246, as Superman and Batman are "Prisoners of the Kryptonite Asteroid," by Haney, Schaffenberger and Anderson. Wonder Woman is in a return match with Baron Blitzkrieg, Black Canary gets caught up in a "Wulf Hunt" while Green Arrow takes on a "Manhunt for a Murderer," and Bill Kunkel and Gray Morrow reveal the secret origin of The Vigilante...In JUSTICE LEAGUE #145, Superman is killed (for real), the Phantom Stranger guest-stars and Hawkgirl demands membership -- all from Steve Englehart, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin...SUPERBOY #230 tells the story of "The Day Bouncing Boy Bounced Back," from Paul Levitz, Mike Nasser and Jack Abel... And DETECTIVE #471 starts a four-parter which sees the return of one of Batman's most fantastic foes of the forties -- courtesy of Steve Englehart, Marshall Rogers and Terry Austin.

Shipping Information

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF APRIL 12th:
Isis #6 / Secrets of the Haunted House #7 / Kamandi #52 / Sgt. Rock #307 / Superman #314 / Giant Justice League of America #145

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF APRIL 19th:
Shade #2 / Starfire #7 / Men of War #1 / Teen Titans #49 / Flash #252 / Batman #290 / Giant DC Special - The Origin of the Justice Society - #29

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF APRIL 26th:
Hercules Unbound #12 / Plastic Man #19 / Aquaman #57 / House of Secrets #147 / Superboy and the Legion of Super-Heroes #230 / G.I. Combat Dollar Comic #203 / World's Finest Comics - Dollar Comic #246

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF MAY 3rd:
Ragman #6 (delayed from March) / Metal Men #53 / Challengers of the Unknown #82 / Warlord #8 / Unknown Soldier #207 / Super Friends #6 / The Return of the New Gods #13 / Giant Super-Team Family (Green Lantern, Hawkman, Atom) #12

SHIPPING THE WEEK OF MAY 10th:
Showcase (The Doom Patrol) #94 / Green Lantern - Green Arrow #96 / Wonder Woman #234 / Action Comics #474 / Detective Comics #471